

## CLAIMS

- 1 A radio mobile telecommunications system comprises a base transceiver station (18) arranged to manage a plurality of mobile systems (12, 14, 16) within at least one telecommunications cell; the base station (18) having means to provide an acquisition indication channel by which an acquisition signal (86) is sent to indicate that the strength of the preamble signals (80, 82, 84) sent by a mobile system (12) to the base transceiver station (18) has reached a predetermined level (84); characterised in that said acknowledgement signal (86) is arranged to indicate in addition that the mobile 12 must not immediately send a message signal.
2. A system according to Claim 1 in which said acknowledgement signal (86) indicates that the strength of the preamble signal (84) is acceptable but the message signal (90) cannot be accepted at this time.
- 3 A system according to Claim 1 in which said acknowledgement signal (86) indicates that the strength of the preamble signal (84) is acceptable, and further indicates a predetermined time lag (T) after which the mobile system (12) is permitted to send its message signal (90).
- 4 A method of operating a radio mobile telecommunications system comprises :-  
sending spaced preambles (80, 82, 84) of increasing strength from a mobile (12) to a base transceiver station (18);  
sending a preamble acknowledgement signal (86) on an acquisition indication channel from the base transceiver station (18) to the mobile (12) when a preamble (84) reaches an acceptable strength; and  
sending a message signal (90) from the mobile (12) to the base transceiver station (18);  
characterised in that the preamble acknowledgement signal (86) further indicates that the mobile system (12) is not yet permitted to send its message signal (90).

- 5 5. A method according to Claim 4 in which the preamble acknowledgement signal (86) yet further indicates a time delay (T) after which the mobile system (12) is permitted to send its message signal (90).

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